

Message Text

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10

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-03 PA-01

PRS-01 /071 W

----- 012168

R 110834Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7474

INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4413

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, TGEN, IS

SUBJ: ISRAELI NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

REF: A. TEL AVIV 3045

B. STATE 150290

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTED ON JULY 8 (CONFIRMED BY EMBASSY IN TELECON WITH FRIER DG ISRAELI AEC) THAT BIDS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED FROM THREE US COMPANIES (GE, WESTINGHOUSE AND BABCOCK-WILCOX) FOR ISRAEL'S FIRST NUCLEAR POWER PLANT. IT WILL BE LIGHT WATER REACTOR (LWR) WITH CAPACITY OF 600 MEGAWATTS. PRESS REPORT STATE SITE NOT DECIDED, BUT AS REPORTED IN REF A WE UNDERSTAND THAT NITZANIM IS BEING SURVEYED AS FIRST CHOICE. PROBABLY REASON FOR NOT STATING SITE IN PRESS RELEASE IS TO MINIMIZE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL DEBATE AT THIS STAGE OF PLANNING.

2. FRIER STATED FOURTH US COMPANY, COMBUSTION ENGINEERING, HAS INDICATED INTEREST IN BIDDING AND MAY BE ADDED TO LIST. NO COMPANIES IN OTHER COUNTRIES REQUESTED TO BID AT THIS TIME. FRIER SAID WHILE THIS

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POSSIBILITY IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION, HE BELIEVES

IT UNLIKELY WITH RECENT US STATEMENTS ASSURING AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES (REF B).

3. FRIER RECONFIRMED AS REPORTED REF A THAT NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM STILL IN STUDY PHASE AND FINAL APPROVAL TO PROCEED WILL REQUIRE CABINET DECISION.

4. COMMENT: DECISION TO ISSUE LONG-DELAYED INVITATION TO BID DEMONSTRATES THAT GOI IS DESIROUS OF MOVING AHEAD WITH ITS NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM. ONE FACTOR WHICH MAY HAVE PROMPTED REQUEST FOR BIDS, DESPITE APPARENT LACK OF PROGRESS IN RESOLVING SAFEGUARDS PROBLEM, IS GROWING PROBABILITY THAT AUB RODEIS OIL FIELDS WILL HAVE TO BE RETURNED TO EGYPT IN CONTEXT OF SECOND STAGE AGREEMENT LEAVING ISRAEL WITHOUT INDIGENOUS ENERGY SOURCE. DECISION TO REQUEST BIDS FROM US COMPANIES ONLY PROBABLY AT LEAST IN PART DESIGNED BY ISRAELIS TO BRING PRESSURE ON US TO RESOLVE SAFEGUARD PROBLEM ON TERMS MORE ACCEPTABLE TO ISRAEL.
VELIOTES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 11 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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06 JUL 2006

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